

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE OPENING OF THE GAMES OF THE XXX OLYMPIAD

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the millions of athletes, coaches, fans, and families around the world who are eagerly anticipating the opening of the Games of the XXX Olympiad, which will be held in the City of London from July 27 through August 12, 2012.

There is something special about the Olympic Games. Every four years the world's best athletes come together and engage in a spirited but friendly competition of athletic skill and grace. For two weeks the world will be treated to incredible athletic displays of speed, power, endurance, strength, and grace; heartwarming displays of courage under pressure; inspiring examples of sportsmanship and teamwork; and several surprising turns of events. Their performances will amaze and astound the world and be a source of pride to the nations they are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 529 athletes making up the United States Olympic team. Like the men and women of the Armed Forces, they represent the best of our country. Their self discipline, willingness to sacrifice, commitment to excellence, and humility in victory make us all proud to be Americans.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history the majority of athletes on Team USA is comprised of women. Team USA reflects the rich diversity of our country. The athletes come from 45 states. The oldest is a 54 year old equestrian, the youngest a 15 year old swimmer. Thirteen are mothers, 54 are fathers. It is a source of pride to me and a positive reflection on our country that 41 members of the team are foreign born. And I am proud to say that 127, or 24 percent, hail from my home state of California, including 24 of the 26 members of the water polo team and one of the best basketball players in the world, Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers.

It is not easy to become an Olympian. It takes years of training, extraordinary focus and determination, natural ability, incredible work ethic, and a bit of luck. I know from personal experience. I tried out for a spot on the Women's Basketball Team that would have competed in the 1980 Summer Games held in Moscow had the United States not boycotted the games in protest of 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, the Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius," which is Latin for "Faster, Higher, Stronger." Over the next 17 days of glory, as we watch these marvelous athletes from all over the world compete in the London Games, I have no doubt that our hearts will race faster, our hopes will be higher, and our pride even stronger that we live in a country that could produce such exceptional men and women.

I wish them all well. Let the games begin.

HONORING GARRET PARKER, RECENTLY NAMED BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Garret Parker, a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Alton, Illinois, who was recently selected as the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year for the State of Illinois.

Garret Parker has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Alton for six years. While he has credited the Boys & Girls Club with providing him support and numerous opportunities, Garret has reciprocated by volunteering, coaching and mentoring younger members.

Garret has had to overcome several obstacles in his young life. Born with sickle cell anemia and chronic asthma, he has endured extensive medical treatment, including multiple blood transfusions. Garret's mother has battled cancer and is now doing well. Garret's positive resolve in meeting these life challenges is one of his noteworthy personal qualities that have earned this recognition.

Among Garret's volunteer activities are ringing bells for the Salvation Army fund drives, participating in Mississippi River and city-wide cleanup projects and helping out with activities at the Boys & Girls Club. He combines this with extracurricular activities in high school while maintaining a solid grade point average.

Garret looks forward to graduating from high school next year and hopes to go to college. He is currently looking at the University of Central Florida. Given his remarkable performance so far, it is apparent this young man has a bright future ahead of him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Garret Parker, the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year for the State of Illinois, and in wishing him and his family the very best in the future.

HONORING DR. MAE B. WRIGHT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Mae B. Wright. She was an inspirational teacher, mentor, and tireless servant in the District of Columbia and the D.C. public school system for over 47 years. As a dedicated member of the Washington community, she pioneered advancements in educational achievement and spir-

itual guidance for countless individuals through her service as a minister, teacher, and advisor.

Mother Wright, as she was fondly known, served as a teacher and business leader by profession. She was dedicated not only to educating students through the school system, but she believed in education through the principles of faith. She co-founded a support ministry called People inspiring People, PIP, with her husband, Raefield Wright, with the goal of helping others find peace, prosperity, and balance in their everyday lives.

Born in Kershaw County, South Carolina, in 1937, her parents instilled in her the importance of self-respect, hard work, integrity, and perseverance. Dr. Wright received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Minors Teachers College, which is currently the University of the District of Columbia. She also received graduate-level training in psychology and business administration.

Dr. Wright will be remembered as a person who always put people first and partnered with them to find peace, especially in the midst of the most challenging circumstances. She was always available, night or day, to help one work through a problem or provide a listening ear.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Mae B. Wright.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED
STEELWORKERS LOCAL 264

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the members and families of United Steelworkers, USW, Local 264 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the union.

Like the industry and workers it represents, Local 264 has grown and evolved during its long history to meet the needs of members and the challenges of the day. Starting as a small paper worker union in 1937, the local served employees at five Saint Paul, Minnesota, paper plants as part of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers. More than 65 years and several union mergers later, the growing union eventually became the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber Manufacturing, Energy, Allied-industrial, and Service Workers International Union—the United Steelworkers. While many changes have occurred in the industry and the union's name, the local has always served its members first.

United Steelworkers Local 264 works to cultivate positive relationships between its members and their employers, including RockTenn, one of the largest paper recyclers in America. In turn, the union is helping to set a high standard for all workers in our State and provides much needed resources for safety, skills training, fair wages and benefits, and retirement security.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.